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CONTENTS

Latin America

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Further on ECLA Meeting in Mexico City A 1
Cuba Urges Economic Platform [NOTIMEX] A 1
Mexican Budget Secretary Speaks [NOTIMEX] A 1
Regional Debt 'Cannot Be Paid' [AFP] A 2

ARGENTINA

Caputo Views Falklands, C.A. Peace Mission B 1
Reportage on CGT Call For National Stoppage B 1
Tension Rises as Strike Nears [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 24 Jan] B 1
Regions Report Effectiveness B 3
Further on Effects B 3
Reportedly 98.17 Percent Effective B 5
Labor Minister Issues Communique B 5
Executive Orders Continuation of Human Rights Trial B 6
Bomb Damages Intransigent Party Headquarters B 6
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 22 Jan]

BOLIVIA

Police Seize Car Carrying U.S.-Made Mines C 1
Terrorist Attack Interrupts Communication With Peru C 1

CHILE

Government Authorizes 154 Exiles' Return E 1
Union Leader Eduardo Rios Withdrawls Resignation E 1

COLOMBIA

USSR Denies Presence of Ships Off Coast [DPA] F 1
Editorial Denounces U.S. Criticism of Transport F 1
[EL SIGLO 20 Jan]

ECUADOR

Febres Cordero Responds to Congressional Resolution G 1
Vargas Pazzos Appeals Dismantling of Taura Unit G 2
Rebel Paratroopers Under 'Protective Custody' [EFE] G 3
Legal Proceedings Begin G 3

PARAGUAY

Further Reportage on Closing of Radio Nanduti H 1
Owner's Letter Reports Closing H 1
[ULTIMA HORA 17 Jan]
U.S. Communique Criticized H 1
Colorado Party Leader on Issue H 3
[LA TARDE 20 Jan]
Montanaro's Threats Reiterated [AFP] H 4

PERU

Shining Path Attacks Indian Embassy, Kills 2 [AFP] J 1
Terrorists Occupy Foreign Press Offices [EFE] J 1
Government Extends Emergency in Lima, Callao J 1
Alva Castro Announces Creation of Debt Council J 1

VENEZUELA

Nicaraguan Minister Makes 'Unexpected' Visit [EFE] L 1
30,000 Protest Economic Policy on Democracy Day [AFP] L 1
Briefs: Oil Reserves Increase; San Jose Agreement Modified L 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

FMLN Suspends Transportation Stoppage 23 Jan P 1
[Venceremos]

NICARAGUA

Government To Release Hall For Health Reasons P 1
Police Arrest, Release PSC Leaders 22 Jan P 1

CUBA

Reportage on Castro-Sarney Telephone Call Q 1
Text of Conversation Q 1
Castro Views Conversation Q 3
Talk Broadcast to Brazilians Q 4
Panamanian Legislative Delegation Departs Q 4
Reportage on Czechoslovak Delegation Visit Q 4
Official Talks Begin 23 Jan Q 4
Risquet Meets Kapek, Officials Q 5
Chavez Signs Agreement Q 5
Bulgarian Planning Committee Chairman Arrives Q 5
GDR Nuclear Safety Secretary Arrives for Talks Q 6
Castro Visits Spanish Ambassador's Residence Q 6
U.S. Radio Station in Puerto Rico 'Aggressive' Q 6
U.S. Engineers Reportedly Arrive in Costa Rica Q 7
Report Accuses U.S., Contras of Drug Trafficking Q 7
Colombian Media Cited Q 8

FURTHER ON ECLA MEETING IN MEXICO CITY

Cuba Urges Economic Platform

FL210352 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0012 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 20 January (NOTIMEX) -- Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], has said that solving the war-like conflict in the Central American isthmus will facilitate the formation of a common economic platform of area countries.

He said the common economic platform would serve as a mechanism to confront the debt problem, but it would have to be used to promote economic and industrail growth in the region.

Melendez rejected basing a solution to the economic problems of Latin American countries on a single model of development and said each nation should make its own efforts within a global concept. In the meantime, Melendez said, those efforts should be translated into concrete actions since alarming aspects have emerged that aggravate the region's economic problems.

Because of this, he urged industrialized countries and creditors to adopt an attitude of understanding in reference to the problems confronted by developing countries since there are countries, like the United States, which demonstrates little willingness to satisfy the needs of Latin America's economic situation.

In reference to the special ECLA meeting, Melendez said that this is in no way a first step toward the formation of a club of debtor countries.

Melendez added that the meeting is a forum promoting a necessary political unity of the will of the peoples and governments of Latin America because this is the only method of establishing a basis for negotiating with the principal creditor countries.

Mexican Budget Secretary Speaks

FL231655 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2152 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Planning and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari has stated that in only 12 months Mexico has lost $8.5 billion in oil exports, equivalent to 6.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDB).

Speaking to the opening session of ECLA, the official pointed out that almost $2 billion in income was lost in 1986 becase of the fall in the prices of other raw materials.

The private sector paid off debts for $1.25 billion, credits were inexistent, and more than $8 billion had to be paid in interest on the foreign debt, the secretary explained.

Salinas de Gortari declared that this truly disastrous situation, stemming from external factors, occurred only a few months after the September 1985 earthquakes which caused so much damage, and following 3 weeks of enormous efforts in internal reorganization.

Analyzing the nation's economy and its international repercussions, the official said that in spite of difficulties, inflation is expected to decrease this year to levels below the ones registered at the end of 1986. Economic growth of 2 or 3 percent is also expected, fostered by non-oil imports [as received], and private and public investments, which might place the country in a more favorable position for 1988.

Salinas de Gortari noted that the adjustment efforts made during recent years have been largely compensated for [as received] by an additional deterioration in the international scene [torno]. He said that stagnation does not occur in a democracy and that international commitments cannot be kept at the expense of an unlimited depression at home.

The official warned that if international markets do not open up to the region's exports and the debt service refinancing is not granted, the social and economic problem could be perpetuated and even intensified.

Salinas de Gortari mentioned the need for commercial and international banks to accept restructuring the public debt at a longer term and with a longer grace period, substitute preferential rates, reduce surcharges, and grant new credits, including contingency funds.

The official concluded by saying that it is not possible to continue permanently to service the debt in the midst of domestic recession, the growing protectionism of other countries, the deterioration of trade conditions, and the cancellation of foreign credits.

Regional Debt 'Cannot Be Paid'

PA232232 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jan (AFP) -- Latin America's foreign debt cannot "be paid under the present conditions and without sustained economic development," the 33 countries of the region currently participating in a special ECLA meeting stated in Mexico City today.

"The only way to reach an overall and permanent solution to the ($380 billion) foreign debt problem is to begin a political dialogue between debtors and creditors," the Latin American governments stated in the so-called Declaration of Mexico.

The dialogue should be based "on the principles of reciprocity and the right to development," the document, which was announced at the end of the meeting, states. Developed member-countries of the ECLA (the United States, France, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, and Canada) decided to abstain.

CAPUTO VIEWS FALKLANDS, C.A. PEACE MISSION

FL212337 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2129 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Mexico, 21 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said here today that among the criteria Argentina maintains in its difference with Great Britain on the Malvinas Islands is the firm position of territorial revindication and the prudence to preserve peace as a fundamental value.

The Argentine foreign minister was interviewed briefly in the Mexico City airport shortly before he returned to his country after concluding a goodwill tour through Central America with the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and the UN and OAS secretary generals.

He said after Britain's unilateral decision to declare a 200-mile maritime zone around the islands, Great Britain has decided to grant fishing licenses in the zone even though Argentina has concluded bilateral agreements which effectively apply Argentina's jurisdiction over the zone in question.

In reference to the Group of 10 peace mission, he said they completed their goals even though he considers the Central American situation to be very difficult because incomprehension and differences will remain. Nevertheless, he said, there is still some common ground that should be amplified to bring the parties involved in the conflict to the negotiating table.

The problem, he said, is establishing the method of dialogue. God help us in keeping Central America from becoming a Middle East where permanent and prolonged war exists and where the causes are so complicated it is impossible to reach a solution. We want to promote dialogue and are going to try to do this, he said.

Caputo said 1987 is a year in which one will have to act with much imagination, firmness, and diplomatic quality to achieve a peaceful agreement in Central America.

REPORTAGE ON CGT CALL FOR NATIONAL STOPPAGE

Tension Rises as Strike Nears

PY252228 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jan 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Transport Secretary Horacio Diaz Hermelo yesterday pledged that during next Monday's strike, called by the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), there will be police officers in all buses runnning despite the strike to secure "the safety of those who want to work," while bus owners announced that services would continue on that day.

At the same time the government issued a decree to protect those who work on Monday. The decree was signed by President Raul Alfonsin and Ministers Juan Sourrouille (economy), Antonio Troccoli (interior) and Pedro Trucco (public works).

According to the decree, the government will be responsible for repaying any damage which may be caused to persons or property as a consequence of the normal development of services on the day of the strike.

Meanwhile, holding company chief Enrique Olivera stressed that "anyone not showing up for work on Monday will not be paid for that day." He also instructed public-sector companies to ensure vital services to the community.

Diaz Hermelo estimated that 75 percent of the city's buses could be running on Monday, adding that the government hopes to have some emergency train services running as well as emergency flights to tourist spots. Emergency shifts were also planned for the subways, he said.

The transport official described the security measures which will be taken for the protection of all those working on Monday as "unprecedented."

But Buenos Aires City Hall prohibited free parking downtown on the day of the strike, as is traditionally allowed during stoppages, it was officially reported yesterday.

CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini blasted the Radical Party by saying that "the government is trying for inflation and the rise of prices" and replying that "next Monday's strike sums up the discontent of all productive sectors of the community, beyond political preferences, and so it will be crushing."

"To reduce inflation is the government's responsibility, but at the expense of those who produced it, not of the workers," claimed Ubaldini.

Thus the labour grouping's leader rejected the statement in several newspapers, in which they claimed that "for the first time in Argentina there is a strike for inflation."

The paid ads state that "bitter experience has taught us that wage hikes like those requested by the CGT always bring about companies' demands for price rises... We all know that when the hikes are transferred to prices, they produce inflation, not a higher income for workers," the government explained.

Alfonsin implicitly expressed his support for his economic team in the face of CGT criticism when he invited Sourrouille and his aides to dinner on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, the Entre Rios government has declared the strike illegal so public employees not working on Monday will not be paid for two day's work. The provincial government justified the measure by alleging the strike's "manifest political nature."

The Buenos Aires provincial government resolved that striking workers would not be paid for the day of stopage.

Favourable reactions to the strike include the Peronist, Intransigent, and Christian Democratic Parties, UTBA [expansion unknown] journalists union, Foecyt [Federation of Postal and Telecommunications Workers] postal workers and the various leftist parties, although the Movement Towards Socialism and Workers Party criticized both the government and the CGT's "bureaucratic and unrepresentative" leadership.

Renewal Peronist Deputy Osvaldo Borda (Buenos Aires) was optimistic that the strike would be "a success, despite the alleged political undertones that the Radicals attribute to it." However, he said that "beyond the result the strike may have, we are sad because we tried to establish dialogue with the government and received no answer."

Radical Senator Edison Otero admitted that the strike "will not fail" in terms of absenteeism percentages but will in terms of its "political results."

Airline pilots, who initially offered their symbolic support to the strike, which was to consist of short stoppages every couple of hours, withdrew it and only expressed their backing of the workers' claims for a decent wage.

Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo exhorted the union leaders "to sit down to talk again."

SOMU maritime workers union Secretary-General Juan Francisco Arce, one of the few Radical leaders of the CGT, yesterday relinquished his party membership, without giving a reason. The CGT attached great importance to the resignation on the eve of the strike.

Ubaldini reported that Cordoba and Mendoza union delegates had denied the rumour that unions would picket places of work next Monday to convince workers to join the strike.

There were conflicting reports on how justified the strike was in terms of present wage trends. FIEL (the Foundation for Latin American Economic Research) reported private-sector real wages as up 3.2 percent last month by comparison with November and 1.5 percent better than at the beginning of the Austral Plan (June, 1985).

However, the Argentine Business University (UADE) registered a major slump in pay -- 13 percent in the case of industrial wages and 30.5 percent for public-sector wages. Both entities released their contradictory reports on 1986 wage trends yesterday.

Regions Report Effectiveness

PY261303 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1128 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] La Plata, 26 Jan (NA) -- Police sources have revealed that the strike called by the CGT is about 100 percent effective in the industrial areas of Berisso, Ensenada, and Magdalena.

In La Plata, the number of commuter passengers decreased by about 85 percent and the number of long-distance passengers fell by about 95 percent, according to the same sources.

Buenos Aires public administration activities decreased by about 45 percent, "perhaps due to the lack of transportation," said government sources upon evaluating the strike.

The police indicated that as of midmorning, there have been no incidents of any kind.

Further Effects

PY262059 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Jan (NA) -- The national stoppage called by the CGT in protest against the government economic policy has been partially effective throughout the county up to noon today.

In the industrial belts of Greater Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Cordoba the level of absenteism was much higher. Some minor attacks took place in Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca, and Mar del Plata, but no casualties have been reported.

According to Interior Ministry official sources, the number of people absent from their place of work in the industrial belt was "high," but low in the service sector, commerce, and banks. Official sources have admitted, however, that the effectiveness of the strike was "inconsistant", and, depending on the region, the level of absenteism was either high or low.

Regarding the transport sector, it was reported that Austral Airlines are working at 100 percent strength, while Aerolineas Argentinas has run only 85 percent of its scheduled flights. The strike is 100 percent effective in the railroad sector and the subway worked normally without having to resort to emergency plans. When that occurs, the executive personnel assume the responsibility of the employees. Regarding urban transport systems, 85 percent of the bus lines worked normally, and within that percentage, some 40 percent of the buses. Activity was "practically normal" in the metropolitan area, according to the press office. It also stressed the fact that all hospitals are providing regular services without having to resort to emergency procedures. However, CGT sources reported at noon today that according to their own evaluation the strike was between 90 and 95 percent effective throughout the nation.

According to the CGT source, "the strike was most effective in the great urban centers." He added that the executive board was meeting throughout the morning. The same source stated tht the CGT will release an official communique at approximately 1800 on the scope of the strike and the final figures on the effectiveness of the strike. The source said that CGT leader Saul Ubaldini would possibly hold a news conference to stress and comment on the different circumstances of the strike.

The offices of the Metalworkers Union and of the State Gas Company were attacked with gunshots early this morning, but there were no reported casualties.

Meanwhile, at 0900 this morning, a bus was attacked in the heavily populated neighborhood of El Once. Four individuals attacked the bus with rocks and iron bars causing considerable damage to the bus, but passengers were not hurt.

The four individuals were arrested by personnel of the VIII Police Precinct.

This morning, six buses circulating in Mar del Plata were attacked with bolts hurled at them, breaking their windshields.

The overall situation in the interior of the country by noon today was that of a partial stoppage. In Mendoza, for instance, almost 100 percent of public employees were present in their places of work, and a very high number were present in the different industries, including the wine industry which worked normally. In Greater Buenos Aires, the strike is reportedly 100 percent effective in all the industrial sectors, as well as in the zone of La Plata, Berisso, and Ensenada. In Mar del Plata, however, according to unofficial sources, activities in the commercial and tourism sectors were normal. In Bahia Blanca the strike was almost 95 percent effective in all sectors, except n the banks where the executive personnel had to take care of normal activities. In San Luis the strike was 90 percent effective, although stores opened their doors normally.

In Rosario, however, the strike was nearly 80 percent. There was no transport service and the industrial belt was practically paralyzed. In San Juan, the level of absenteeism was high in official, bank, transport, and public services, while in the downtown area the activity was very low due to the lack of transport services.

Reportedly 98.17 Percent Effective

PY270141 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2215 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan (NA) -- CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini announced today that tomorrow the CGT Executive Board will start to work on a "program" of contacts with other sectors of Argentine society "to seek to achieve a consensus for the 26-point program" drawn up by the CGT.

In addition, the CGT secretary general reported that today's CGT stoppage was observed by 98.17 percent of the people throughout the country. He used this figure to show that "the plebiscite against the economic program is supported by the vast majority of workers."

Asked if the CGT intends to hold another stoppage, Ubaldini responded that the CGT "has its program," and announced that the federal central committee will be convened on 12 March 1987.

Labor Ministry Issues Communique

PY270140 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2353 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Jan (TELAM) -- The Labor Ministry has reported that the effectiveness of today's strike was a little less than that recorded in January 1986, when the CGT chose the summer and the incentive of a long weekend to conceal the effective level of free support to its policy.

In a press communique, the Labor Ministry stated that to that purposefully chosen time must be added some facts that violated labor rights, facts that were also used against the transportation sector to "strengthen" the effects of the stoppage. It is obvious that the CGT had more confidence in the summer and in the pressure on the transportation sector than on the workers' free support.

The communique adds that the government will not give up its anti-inflationary objective that has allowed the country to grow, to lower unemployment, to negotiate salaries directly within certain guidelines, and to improve the workers purchasing power during 1986.

The Labor Ministry feels that those who claim the government is weak and with no proposals are mistaken. This is a legitimate democratic government that is aware of its obligations and rights, a government that believes in participation and is convinced that this participation must respect the constitutional system and the roles that those organizations in such a system play in a modern, pluralist, and participative democracy; a democracy with social content as the one we are building with the participation of the overwhelming majority of Argentines.

The communique concludes by saying that the country must rest assured that the government will be consistent in establishing policies and that it will exercise the powers granted to it, without damaging the desire to talk and negotiate on certain aspects of its socio-labor policies and without rejecting the adjustments it may find necessary and appropriate.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS CONTINUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TRIALS

PY231804 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] It has been confirmed that the national Prosecutor's Office has received an official communication from the executive branch regarding instructions to the prosecutors. The appropriate notification to the representatives throughout the country of the Prosecutor's Office was being drawn up today for cases where violations of human rights during the military regime are being investigated.

It should be remembered that the new instructions officially given yesterday by the executive branch take into account the principle of obedience, and order the continuation of the trials of those who seem to have committed excesses. The Buenos Aires morning papers interpret this as a harsh answer by the executive branch to the repeated delays by the Armed Forces Supreme Council, channeling trials through the Prosecutor's Office, thus strengthening the state of law that does not allow impunity.

BOMB DAMAGES INTRANSIGENT PARTY HEADQUARTERS

PY222222 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Jan 87 p 9

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- Two home-made bombs caused extensive damage to the front of the building housing the Leandro N. Alem headquarters of the Intransigent Party (PI) in the Flores district here early yesterday but nobody was hurt.

In a statement the PI attributed the attack to what it described as rightist, fascist and agent provocateur elements.

In its communique the PI categorically denied rumours that the attack was the work of the People's Front (Frepu), and said "under no circumstances will we Intransigents seek those responsible for these vandalics attitudes in other forces in the popular field."

Frepu also denied its involvement in the attack and said any attempt to link it with the blast was lunatic.

Frepu said in its own communique that it "was evident that the responsibility for these attempts at intimidation against the left cannot be found in the left itself but rather in rightist sectors and in the repressive apparatus of the dictatorship which has not been dismantled."

POLICE SEIZE CAR CARRYING U.S.-MADE MINES

PY261835 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Relay from Potosi]

[Text] Yesterday at 1400 a private car carrying six boxes containing U.S. made antitank mines was seized. According to information provided by Colonel Felix Cuevas, commander of the Departmental Police, the private car came from the Government House and was on its way to Tarija. Once the car was seized and handed over to the Army we were able to talk with Lieutenant General Hector Oropeza, commander of the Perez III Infantry Regiment, who said:

[Begin recording] [Oropeza] Some boxes containing weapons that belong to the Army fell from the car. We are in the process of investigating. We delivered our report to the High Command and we are now waiting for orders. As you know I cannot provide any further information while an investigation is being conducted. I can say, however, that the car owner is Juan Carlos Sergovia. The car is a 1974 model with a Tarija plate (PECA) 163.

[Reporter] It has been reported that the weapons are already in the hands of the Army in Potosi. What kind of weapons are they?

[Oropeza] It is exclusively an Army weapon. It is of strictly military fabrication. This is what has called our attention. But you do not have to be concerned because we are going to give more detailed information when we conclude our investigation.

[Reporter] Were the car driver and passengers arrested?

[Oropeza] Yes, they are here in our battalion office and they will provide information [words indistinct].

TERRORIST ATTACK INTERRUPTS COMMUNICATION WITH PERU

PY241309 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] An attack by Shining Path Marxist terrorists, perpetrated in Peruvian territory, yesterday interrupted 50 percent of the microwave communications between Peru and Bolivia, according to a report to the press by (German Quiroga), general manager of the National Telecommunications Enterprise [ENTEL].

He said the sabotage occurred yesterday at noon, and that it affected half of the communications with Peru. The two countries are usually linked by three permanent microwave channels. The ENTEL public relations office reported that communications were partially interrupted because of an attack on the (Chaclayo) electric power plant in Peru. Service has now been totally restored.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES 154 EXILES' RETURN

PY232323 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Relay from Government House by Eliana Henriquez]

[Text] The government has authorized 154 Chilean exiles to return to the country. Interior Minister Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil gave this report today. He said that the authorization is the result of the normal duties of the Interior Ministry.

He added that each case is studied carefully and that all records are examined within the procedure established by the chief of state.

These 154 exiles are included in a list of 500 people whose situation is being studied by the Human Rights Advisory Committee headed by Ricardo Martins.

Cardemil said that the organization extends its recommendations as soon as each case is studied, and that the executive branch, through the Interior Ministry, decides on the matter.

He concluded by saying that new lists of Chilean exiles will be released within the next 90 days authorizing others to return to the country.

UNION LEADER EDUARDO RIOS WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

PY210056 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2000 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Eduardo Rios, president of the Democratic Central Organization of Workers, CDT, has withdrawn his resignation as president of the labor organization. This afternoon Rios informed the CDT board of his decision.

Eduardo Rios had submitted his resignation as president of the labor organization during a national CDT meeting in mid-December. At the time, he said he was going to retire from the Merchant Marine Union. [passage omitted]

USSR DENIES PRESENCE OF SHIPS OFF COASTS

PA240212 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2152 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Bogota, 23 Jan (DPA) -- The alleged presence of Soviet ships in Colombian waters has been detected by the Defense Ministry, which issued a secret report to the central government. The report will formalize a complaint before the United Nations, EL TIEMPO reported today. According to the newspaper, the "Sutatenza" radio network has been informed of a secret document that warns that ships camouflaged as fishing boats off the Colombian coasts "are equipped with sophisticated instruments to intercept national navy communications." Nevertheless, Nikolay Motchenko, press spokesman of the Soviet Embassy in Bogota, denied the radio network's report this week and said that he had contacted the Defense Ministry, which also denied the radio reports.

According to the report, boats belonging to the Soviet fishing fleet, known as "Sovryflot," were spying on countries such as Peru, Chile, Ecuador, and Colombia. National Navy authorities informed President Virgilio Barco of the situation, according to the "Sutatenza" radio network.

EDITORIAL DENOUNCES U.S. CRITICISM OF TRANSPORT

PA251543 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Jan 87 p 1, 2

[Excerpt] "We Colombians thought that the high number of victims -- civilians, peasants, 'mules,' [drug runners] and policemen as well as judges, magistrates, high-ranking officials, and ministers -- that the antinarcotic struggle has caused would strengthen the impression that the United States and Colombia are waging a joint battle. We assumed this would make it clear that we are on the same side, and that therefore, there is mutual understanding of each other's efforts. However, there is an area where one can see an inexplicable lack of solidarity with Colombia on the part of the U.S. Government: the U.S. authorities' persecution of the Colombian transportation companies which are viewed as enemies when in fact they are the direct victims of the drug trafficking."

The aforementioned opinion was expressed by former President designate Alvaro Gomez in his editorial in the SINTESIS ECONOMICA magazine which is circulating today. In it, he analyzes what the struggle against drug trafficking has meant for the country and analyzes the U.S. attitude toward it.

Dr Gomez stresses that the corruptive power of the U.S. demand [for drugs] penetrates all barriers, in both the United States and Colombia, and that at the level of practical controls, it is invincible. Gomez adds that the Colombian transportation companies do what they can to prevent drug trafficking but that when they fail, the U.S. Government views them as enemies and imposes unpayable fines on them. [passage omitted]

FEBRES CORDERO RESPONDS TO CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION

PA230017 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2259 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text of President Leon Febres Cordero's response to the 22 January resolution issued by the national congress calling for his resignation -- read by announcer]

[Text] Quito, 22 January 1987
Mr Andres Vallejo Arcos, president of the national congress

Mr President:

On 16 January 1987, a few score men, their faces painted black, mutinied at Taura Base. They boldly fired their weapons, killing two brave Ecuadoreans in cold blood, wounding five other Ecuadoreans who were heroically fulfilling their duty, and kidnapping the constitutional president of the republic, the defense minister, military chiefs, and other members of the presidential retinue.

According to press reports shortly after 1700, while the hostages were still under the threat of death, several legislators, members of the opposition majority, met with you. At that time, the legislators did not suggest measures to resolve the dramatic incident at Taura Base, which violated the basic rules of civilization, our country's democracy, and the Ecuadoran people's present and future. No. They only launched an attack against the kidnapped president, and the president of the national congress summoned an extraordinary session to analyze the country's political situation and the conduct of the president of the republic.

Among many other questions, the most outstanding one is: What would the national congress have done had the president of the Republic been assassinated by his mad kidnappers? Fate, and the president's serene firmness, did not allow the president to get killed. Instead, during the mutiny, the president prevented further bloodshed of Ecuadoran blood, saved the democratic system, and ensured the safety of the members of his retinue.

Despite all this, on 20, 21, and 22 January, 38 legislators of the progressive bloc cast an avalanche of rude insults against the president of the Republic, tortured logic and the Spanish language, distorted the truth, and approved a resolution urging the constitutional president of the republic to step down from office.

In this manner, 38 citizens, who are counted among the strongest adversaries of the constitutional government, thought they had ended a process that had begun on 10 August 1984 and worsened in March 1986 when a coup against the democracy occurred -- which resulted in the death of 8 Ecuadoreans and the wounding of 30 others. The process also worsened in September [year not given] when, following the orders of the bloc, the 38 citizens approved an amnesty by distorting the facts, saying this amnesty was not based on a parliamentarian majority decision but in respect of the Constitution and the laws.

I wish to add that one of those 38 citizens said that he was urging the president in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 10 of the Constitution that states that the request cannot be made on behalf of the president. They are attempting to ignore the request of more than 1.3 million Ecuadoreans who elected me as constitutional president of the republic for the 4-year term that ends on 10 August 1988.

Those 38 citizens are desperately attempting to base their antidemocratic demand on alleged violations of the constitution on my part. This only puts to shame the legal awareness of the country because, had there been violations of the Constitution as they claim, had there been no democracy, or had the president of the Republic not respected the Constitution, would it have been possible for the National Congress to meet on 20, 21, and 22 January? Would it have been possible for them to insult the truth and the laws as they did? Would it have been possible for the media to, without hindrance, inform the country and the world of what was going on? The fact of the matter is that what happened on 20, 21, and 22 January at the national congress does honor to our democracy. It proves how much democracy and constitutionalism there is in Ecuador, thanks to a president who, [words indistinct] the political passions of the government's strong adversaries.

Those 38 citizens not only attempt to [words indistinct] of the decision of more than 1.3 million fellow Ecuadoreans but also the principle that lies at the root of the constitutional organization and within the public law regulating the state's structure and functions. Only that which is expressly authorized by law and particularly by the state's Constitution can be done. But the Constitution in force, particularly Article 79, which determines the congress' functions -- neither this or any other article authorizes the congress to exhort the president of the Republic to resign. The parliament cannot make this exhortation. If it does, it disobeys the Constitution, and its action is null and void. The congress is all the more guilty of nullification because this resolution was adopted by 38 citizens who met in a special session. During this meeting, and in accordance with the nature of the congress' activities, the matters mentioned in the convocation cannot be discussed. Your convocation pointed out that the congress would analyze the county's political situation and the actions of the president of the Republic. Contrary to this, and once the meeting began, a person who followed your thoughts introduced a resolution bill containing the exhortation. Just in case more details are necessary, the Constitution and juridical philosophies were attacked. The 38 citizens used in their phyrric resolution the term to exhort that entails a judicial command -- that is, an order [words indistinct] for which the 38 citizens have admitted they have no authorization. In addition, this invades the field of other functions [words indistinct] thus violating the clear provision of Article 96 of the Constitution.

Consequently, because the actions forbidden by law are null and void, particularly those forbidden by the Constitution, I hereby report to you, and to the National Congress through you, that I will not resign the presidency of the Republic, because the resolution sent to me is irrelevant, antidemocratic, and lacks any juridical or moral power. In this way, I fulfill strictly my duties with the Constitution, my citizenship, and history. Even as head of state and as an Ecuadorean, I am sure that in this way I help safeguard the prestige of the congress as an essential and permanent institution in the country and for democracy.

Yours truly, God, homeland, and liberty,

[Signed] Leon Febres Cordero Ribadeneira, constitutional president of the Republic of Ecuador

VARGAS PAZZOS APPEALS DISMANTLING OF TAURA UNIT

PA231618 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Lieutenant General Frank Vargas Pazzos, retired, filed a request before the Constitutional Guarantees Tribunal several hours ago to block an order by the president of the Republic, Armed Forces Joint Command Chief General (Jorge Acanza), and FAE [Ecuadoran Air Force] Commander General Jorge Andrade dismantling the Taura paratroopers commando. The appeal also attempts to prevent any arrests.

The request was filed through his defense attorney, Celio Romero, who details the developments of 16 January at the Taura air base where the president signed an agreement pledging not to take disciplinary measures against the military unit that participated in this action.

REBEL PARATROOPERS UNDER 'PROTECTIVE CUSTODY'

PA250136 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0015 GMT 25 Jan 87

[By Tomas Oliveira]

[Excerpts] Quito, 24 Jan (EFE) -- Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Medardo Salazar Navas, retired, told a group of newsmen that the 74 paratroopers who participated in the military uprising at the Taura air base and the kidnapping of President Leon Febres Cordero, have been placed under "protective custody."

The paratroopers, whose safety and freedom were guaranteed by the president of the Republic prior to his release, were transferred to Quito under Armed Forces High Command orders. The command decided the paratroopers should be on "administrative leave."

These statements were made at Yaguachi Garrison, near Quito, following the inauguration of a sports championship among the three branches of the Armed Forces and the National Police. The defense minister said that following the events on Friday, 16 January at Taura, it was decided that the rebels be transferred to the Pichincha Battalion in Quito and placed in the various facilities there.

Salazar disclosed that "they are not together, but in groups appropriate for conducting the pertinent "investigations" and establishing responsibilities, adding that the Taura events "should be taken to the courts."

The minister insisted "they are abiding by all the commitments made by the president of the Republic in the document he signed at the Taura Base shortly before being released by his kidnappers on Friday, 16 January. [quotation marks as received] [passage omitted]

Salazar said that the personal safety of the paratroopers who are under protective custody will be safeguarded, and he ruled out the possibility that any of them have been maltreated. [passage omitted]

Legal Proceedings Begin

PA240242 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Dr (Stalin Baca), military penal judge of region number two, located in Guayaquil, today began legal proceedings against the perpetrators, accomplices, and accessories after the fact of the incidents that occurred 8 days ago at the Taura air base. Osvaldo Duran, the (?court's) prosecutor made the announcement. He added that the court order for an investigation had begun immediately.

FURTHER ON CLOSING OF RADIO NANDUTI, U.S. STANCE

Owner's Letter Reports Closing

PY211446 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Jan 87 p 4

[Letter sent to National Administration for Telecommunications, Antelco, by Radio Nanduti owner Humberto Rubin -- published as a paid advertisement]

[Text] Asuncion, 14 January 1987
Mr Manager of the National Administration for Telecommunications (Antelco)
Colonel Feliciano Duarte

This is to inform you that ZP14 Radio Manduti has suspended its transmission as of 1600 today, since it is impossible to continue normally due to the lack of guarantees and the inactivity of the appropriate authorities.

For 9 months, Radio Nanduti has experienced continuous jamming. The jamming began by affecting station commentaries; a right granted by the National Constitution, by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and by the American Convention of Human Rights, to which Paraguay belongs. Lately however, the jamming has indiscriminately affected advertisements, newscasts, reports, and musical programs.

Antelco is fully aware that our radio station has been continuously harassed. In its A.G. [not further identified] No 241 note of 19 May 1986, Antelco reported to the Lower Court judge, who has taken under advice the constitutional protection I have as yet unsuccessfully requested, that "it has been informed that Radio Nanduti transmissions are being jammed." The note adds that the problem "is the responsibility of judiciary and police authorities who have been called to investigate the case and to establish who should be held responsible as principals and accomplices, as well as to try to recover the stolen property." The Antelco note ended by saying that "currently, this agency does not have the technical equipment required to determine the source of this jamming."

We must also recall that, on 28 April 1986, our studios were attacked by arms groups that caused serious material damage, and that, on 3 May 1986, our San Lorenzo transmitting plant was attacked by armed, masked civilians, who stole and destroyed parts of the mobile unit equipment.

Unfortunately, the authorities have as yet done nothing to put an end to this interference, to return what has been stolen, or to identify the individuals who are to blame.

Our notes denouncing these events have not even received an acknowledgement. Antelco has declared itself incapable of solving the problem, and has entrusted this responsibility to other authorities with less adequate technical resources.

Because of these discouraging facts, Radio Nanduti has reached the bottom of its economic resources because it has not been able to broadcast paid advertisements. We have, therefore, been forced to suspend our transmissions until you can guarantee us the conditions in which to broadcast normally.

We have been informed that the International Radio Association (A.I.R.) has offered to bring equipment to locate the source of the jamming. If this occurs, Radio Nanduti will go on the air to help locate the unlawful deed.

Faithfully,
Humberto Rubin
Director-owner of Radio Nanduti

U.S. Communique Criticized

PY211647 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Jan 87

["Volz del Coloradismo "commentary]

[Text] For a great, prosperous, and happy Paraguay; for peace, democracy, social justice, and freedom to permanently prevail among the glorious Paraguayan people; and against subversive political preachings that seek to divide the Paraguayan family, the Government Junta of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party, presents the "Voz de Coloradismo." [Colorado Party song]

We are not wrong when we accuse an ambassador of being a meddler, of always putting his nose into things that are not his business, especially by supporting acts of agitation financed by anti-Paraguayan and anti-democratic organizations. It is acceptable in the area of international cooperation and bilateral relations of social, cultural, and economic character, that friendly countries exchange mutual assistance under signed agreements and express interest and concern through their respective foreign ministries. Accepting this does not mean that interference in domestic politics should be accepted in the same way. Interference in domestic politics is unjustifiable and unforgivable.

As far as we know, Paraguayan ambassadors have never meddled in domestic political affairs of countries where they have been accredited, because such affairs are the exclusive concern of free and independent nations. These nations are the only ones who must analyze and solve their own problems. Therefore, our attention is strongly turned to the fact that the U.S. ambassador in Paraguay is releasing communiques regarding a radio station. The U.S. ambassador should have expressed his concern through the Foreign Ministry. This is the proper way for an ambassador to act.

It seems that the U.S. ambassador understands things differently, and on more than one occasion he has meddled in our internal political affairs, thus compromising the country he represents, since he does what he does on behalf of the U.S. Embassy. He acts as though Paraguay were a U.S. colony and the U.S. Government should dictate to us political norms.

For instance, in the case of Radio Nandupe [Guarani word for poisonous spider, a pun on Nanduti], which has decided to close down of its own accord, not because the government has imposed the measure, Ambassador Taylor came up with a communique expressing his deep sorrow about what he calls repression of an independent voice. Repression of whom, Mr Ambassador? By the government, which has plenty of reasons to repress that radio station, would you say?

It is true that our Constitution guarantees freedom of thought and opinion, but it does not allow for abuses, promotion of hatred among Paraguayans, incitement to class distinction, crime and violence.

Radio Nandupe has been doing things that are against the Constitution. And yet the U.S. ambassador seems intent on blaming the government for these violations of the Constitution, calling upon it to urgently adopt the measures necessary for reopening the self-closed radio station. We ask ourselves how can it be possible for someone to urge the Paraguayan Government to take measures in a case that is its exclusive business, just because he believes that the government is responsible for an action!

In this case, it is the director-proprietor of Radio Nandupe who must be urged to adopt measures, because he is the one who closed down his station. It is deplorable that the U.S. ambassador would show his face or put his hands in the fire on behalf of a well-known friend of the international left. It is even more deplorable that he would involve his country in matters that are the exclusive business of Paraguay and its government. If the U.S. ambassador truly has something to deplore, the correct way would have been to express it through the Foreign Ministry, as is appropriate.

This new interference in the country's internal affairs on the part of Ambassador Taylor has caused the Paraguayan people deep sorrow. We are a people proud of our independence. We are also a decided and valiant people, and it is difficult to force us to our knees or to scare us with the sword's sheath under any pretext. The only ones who can always be happy about the U.S. diplomat's interference are the eternal renegades of their fatherland, the spurious offsprings of our race, who never stop paying deferences to an ambassador who is not worthy of the legacy of a MacMahon; to an ambassador who, ever since he set foot in our country, has been encouraging and inciting the enemies of our country -- the subversive leftist and Marxist minorities -- thus unduly meddling in affairs that are not his concern.

Since the current ambassador does not know who MacMahon was, let us tell him that he was a U.S. ambassador who came to love and understand the real Paraguayans, despising just as intensely the spurious ones, the eternal renegades of their fatherland.

Colorado Party Leader on Issue

PY211301 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 20 Jan 87 p 9

[Text] Lorenzo J. Romero, president of the Fernando de la Mora Colorado Party precinct, today rejected what he described as meddling in Paraguayan domestic affairs by U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor. He warned that he has at least 10,000 fellow party members who are ready to take to the streets to defend the government of President Stroessner.

Romero, who was recently reelected president of the Fernando de la Mora precinct, stated: "If President Stroessner and the Colorado Party ask for our cooperation we will take to the streets. The members of the Fernando de la Mora precinct will take to the streets of their own accord because they are a responsible and very well organized people who are willing to defend the party and the government."

Romero said that any harmful and intimidatory interference is unacceptable, "and the fact that Ambassador Taylor is the U.S. representative does not mean that he can force us to kneel down as if we were slaves, for we are not a colony; we are a sovereign nation."

A government spokesman recently warned Clyde Taylor, who has repeatedly been charged with meddling in our domestic affairs, that the Colorado Party precincts and "the Colorado Party assault squads [batallones de asalto]" might declare him persona non grata.

The Paraguayan Government has properly rejected this interference, said Romero, adding that "the peace achieved throughout 32 years of government must be preserved. To this end, we must be on the alert against people who want to cause trouble."

"The fact that Ambassador Taylor is the representative of the United States does not empower him to force us to kneel down as if we were slaves," the Colorado leader said.

He added that if necessary, the 1,500,000 members of the Colorado Party will take to the streets to neutralize "the obscure objectives of the people who want to subjugate the government of President Stroessner under the excuse that they want to preserve democracy."

"They will not fulfill their objectives, because Paraguay has never backed down before any enemy, no matter how powerful. Proof of this is the Triple Alliance War, the Chaco War, and the 1947 revolution," he said.

"The Colorado Party has never retreated. If necessary, all of us will die," Romero added.

"The United States may have persuasive power, but the Colorado Party has 1,500,000 voters; General Stroessner is adored by the Colorado Party and is represented by the Armed Forces. Why would we then care?," he said.

"In this city, a mere gesture will be enough to gather 10,000 Colorados who will be at the disposal of the national government and who will be ready to defend it under any circumstance and without retreating," Romero said.

Not even to gain the momentum to charge?

"No. We will gain the momentum to charge against them even more powerfully. This is what will happen, it is not a lie, and if they ever try they will find out. We know that there are training camps with sophisticated weapons, like missiles, near the borders of neighboring countries, but we do not care. Let them come here if they dare," Romero concluded.

Montanaro's Threats Reiterated

PY210029 Paris AFP in Spanish 1537 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] Asuncion, 20 Jan (AFP) -- Paraguayan Deputy Miguel Jimenez today said that U.S. Ambassador to Asuncion, Clyde Taylor, is an unworthy representative of the United States. Jimenez said this after reasserting the warnings of Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro, who threatened to declare Taylor persona non grata.

Jimenez said he wholeheartedly agrees with what Montanaro said at a political meeting last Sunday [as received], when he lashed out at the U.S. ambassador for interfering in Paraguayan domestic affairs and for flirting with the opposition.

Jimenez warned that Taylor should be careful, adding that there is a limit to the patience of the Colorado people (members of the ruling Colorado Party).

The 49-year-old U.S. ambassador arrived in Asuncion in November 1985, and immediately began contacting opposition sectors not recognized by the government. This annoyed the Stroessner regime, whose officials several times have charged Taylor with interfering in Paraguayan domestic affairs.

The most recent interview that Taylor granted 25 days ago to Humberto Rubin, director of the independent Radio Nanduti, which has since decided to close down, exasperated government officials so much that Montanaro said that if Taylor is not content in Paraguay he had better get out.

In contrast to what was said by the legislator and the interior minister, Paraguayan opposition leaders condemned Montanaro's opinion and added that the U.S. diplomat should be treated with greater respect by Paraguayan authorities.

Fernando Vera, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, said that it is obvious that Montanaro, by referring in such terms to Ambassador Taylor, is looking for a confrontation, and that this position may cause a crisis in U.S.-Paraguayan relations.

Vera added that through the interior minister's words, the Stroessner regime has shown that it will continue to uphold a harsh position and to violate human rights.

He added that it seems that the idea is to cause diplomatic incidents with the objective of creating a clash with the United States, which has always imposed its guidelines on Paraguayan diplomatic relations.

SHINING PATH ATTACKS INDIAN EMBASSY KILLS 2

PA262052 Paris AFP in Spanish 2040 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Lima, 26 Jan (AFP) -- According to a police report, three commandos of the Shining Path guerrillas attacked the Indian Embassy this afternoon, killing two civil guardsmen and wounding a second lieutenant. In addition, the commandos hurled dynamite bombs at the building, causing serious damages in the area, the police said.

This morning another Shining Path commando killed a policeman in the Lima district of El Agustino.

TERRORISTS OCCUPY FOREIGN PRESS OFFICES

PY270154 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0104 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Jan (EFE) -- Commandos believed to be members of the Shining Path this afternoon occupied the offices of the British news agency REUTER and the Cuban agency PRENSA LATINA in downtown Lima. In both cases, the commando consisted of three people, who at gunpoint forced the workers to disseminate a communique.

The occupation of REUTER and PRENSA LATINA lasted half an hour. The terrorists left the buildings after painting slogans hailing the Communist Party of Peru and President Gonzalo, the name given by his followers to Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman. This is the first time that Shining Path slogans have been painted on the walls of a foreign news agency. This type of action has been perpetrated against almost every news agency in Lima, but by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), an urban guerrilla organization that carries out its operations principally in the capital.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS EMERGENCY IN LIMA, CALLAO

PY261910 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Through a supreme decree, the government has extended the state of emergency and the suspension of some constitutional guarantees in Lima and the Port of Callao. The decree, which was published yesterday in the gazette, establishes that the Armed Forces will continue to exert domestic control in both Lima and Callao while city officials are responsible for the authorization of public meetings.

ALVA CASTRO ANNOUNCES CREATION OF DEBT COUNCIL

PY201224 Lima Canal 9 Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Jan 87

[Text] During the opening session of a meeting of Peruvian charge d'affaires sponsored by the Foreign Trade Institute today, Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro said that Peru will pay more to those creditors who allow our country to repay its obligations in kind. Alva Castro said the Peruvian Government is willing to do all in its power to repay its debt with goods and services, without hampering our development. He said the government is improving the organization of the sector that deals with the foreign debt, and announced that the Foreign Trade Institute will be transferred to the national foreign debt council, which will be created in the near future.

NICARAGUAN MINISTER MAKES 'UNEXPECTED'VISIT

PA212201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1755 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Text] Caracas, 21 Jan (EFE) -- Nicaraguan Embassy sources in Caracas have informed EFE that Nicaraguan Justice Minister Rodrigo Reyes is in Venezuela to meet with various Venezuelan authorities and prominent people. Reyes arrived last night on an unexpected visit. He arrived on board a commercial airliner and is accompanied by Deputy Comptroller Jose Dolores Zapata and an adviser. According to the diplomatic sources, the Nicaraguan official flew from Costa Rica to Venezuela and will remain in Caracas for a few days.

30,000 PROTEST ECONOMIC POLICY ON DEMOCRACY DAY

PA241751 Paris AFP in Spanish 1418 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jan (AFP) -- A demonstration to protest the government's economic policy marked the 29th anniversary of the fall of General Marcos Periz Jimenez' dictatorship (1948-1958) and establishment of a democratic system of government in Venezuela. Approximately 30,000 people protested the payment of the foreign debt and the high cost of living on the occasion of the day (23 January) celebrating the democratic system of government. The march, which was authorized by the Federal District's Governor's Office, took place between Caracas' Concordia and Candalaria Squares.

At the end of the march, speakers representing various opposition political parties, labor union, and cultural groups criticized the economic policy of President Jaime Lusinchi's social democratic government.

The demonstration was organized to protest the economic policy of the Democratic Action Party, which is currently negotiating refinancing Venezuela's foreign debt, which totals $35 billion. The strategy to pay the foreign debt includes emergency economic measures that have increased the prices of goods and services.

The marchers chanted slogans, including "Unity march for people's rights" and "I need a job." A gigantic gorilla dummy representing the U.S. Government was shaken to the beat of drums.

This demonstration was the highlight of the commemorations of the fall of Venezuela's last dictatorship. Various municipal councils held special sessions to commemorate the day.

BRIEFS

OIL RESERVES INCREASE -- A top Petroven official has reported that the country's proven oil resources have increased to 55.5 billion barrels. In the past 8 years, the oil industry has striven to improve the reserves of medium and light oil. During this period, 6,000 wells have been drilled. [Excerpt] [Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jan 87 PA]

SAN JOSE AGREEMENT MODIFIED -- Caracas, 22 Jan (AFP) -- It was officially announced that Venezuela has modified the San Jose Agreement, through which together with Mexico it supplies oil to Central American and Caribbean nations. The change requires that transactions be carried out solely in dollars. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1125 GMT 22 Jan 87 PA]

EL SALVADOR

FMLN SUSPENDS TRANSPORTATION STOPPAGE 23 JAN

PA240119 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] Attention. Attentio. national and international press. Radio Venceremos reports that as of midnight on Friday, 23 January, the national transportation stoppage decreed by the General Command of the FMLN will be suspended.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE HALL 'FOR HEALTH REASONS'

PA270402 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0309 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan Government has decided to release the mercenary Sam Hall for health reasons, as soon as a relative can travel to Managua to pick him up. Although the nature of Hall's disease has not been disclosed yet, it was said that the conditions for his treatment do not exist in our country. [passage omitted]

An official of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Managua [as heard] pointed out that the health of the prisoner is more important than the judiciary process that he has been undergoing because of his activities in our country.

POLICE ARREST, RELEASE PSC LEADERS 22 JAN

PA231520 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1423 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] Managua, 23 Jan [ACAN-EFE] -- It was reported today that the six leaders of the Nicaraguan opposition Social Christian Party [PSC], who were arrested last night charged with disturbing the peace, were released a few hours later. Eric Ramirez Benavente, PSC national president, and Francisco Taboada Leon, second national vice president of the dissident party, were among those arrested. Marcos Herrera, Alfonso Ortega, Carlos Telleria, Nubia Jarquin, who are leaders of the PSC youth, were also released. They were all arrested by the police in front of the party's headquarters and were charged with "disrespect for the authorities." The PSC leaders told the officers at the police station where they were taken that they were not disturbing the peace and were not showing disrespect for the authorities. The leaders argued that they were carrying out "peaceful activity" in front of the party's headquarters which they wanted to continue doing. A rally of approximately 700 mothers and relatives of prisoners, who have gathered to make permanent efforts on the prisoners' behalf took place in front of PSC headquarters yesterday. The organization of prisoners' mothers is called "22 January Movement of Mothers of Political Prisoners" [Movimiento de Madres de Presos Politicos 22 de Enero].

The Sandinist government does not admit that there are political prisoners in Nicaragua. The Sandinist government admits having common criminals, former national guardsmen, and "contra" in its prisons, the latter group organized and financed by the United States. The opposition leaders were said to have been released after having been "violently" arrested and after having been told that their activity "was disturbing the peace and showed disrespect for the authorities."

REPORTAGE ON CASTRO-SARNEY TELEPHONE CALL

Text of Conversation

PA230154 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Telephone conversation between Cuban President Fidel Castro and Brazilian President Jose Sarney during the inauguration of a direct satellite communications system -- recorded]

[Text] [Sarney] Hello?

[Castro] Yes?

[Sarney] Hello? Am I speaking with the president?

[Castro] Yes, yes. I can hear you clearly. How are you?

[Sarney] Is this President Fidel Castro?

[Castro] Yes, I am speaking to you from Havana.

[Sarney] Good morning, Mr President. How are you?

[Castro] Good morning.

[Sarney] I am pleased to greet you.

[Castro] Thank you, thank you, thank you very much. It is also my great pleasure to greet you.

[Sarney] Thank you. Mr President, this connection is a symbolic one and a great joint task. Our relations were reestablished based on the common belief in the dialogue and the sincere exchange of ideas and views. It is of great significance that one of the first bilateral tasks was done precisely in this field of communications, making our dialogue and contacts between our countries much easier. I must also add that the initiatives for the exchange of goods and services is very good because it gives our relationship substance. Can you hear me?

[Castro] Perfectly, perfectly, Mr President, and I am also watching you on television. As a matter of fact you look very well, very well.

[Sarney] Thank you, thank you, Mr President. I wish to thank you for your personal help in the definite installation of the Brazilian Embassy in Havana. It was all done very well.

[Castro] Yes. Mr President, can I say something or do you have something more to say?

[Sarney] Yes. I will only say that it is a pleasure, Mr President.

[Castro] You have really said a lot of things in only a few words. I have to think a bit. You have said very nice and encouraging things. I fully agree with you that this communication is a doubly historic fact. From the political viewpoint it is of great significance for our peoples and for me, personally. From the technical viewpoint I also think that it is a historic event. I must confess that for the first time I can see the person I am talking to over the telephone. I will always remember that the first person I saw while speaking on the telephone was you, the president of Brazil.

[Sarney] Thank you very much for your words, Mr President. It has been a pleasure greeting you and participating in this inauguration. I hope that in the future we will continue to share initiatives such as this one. Please give my personal greetings and the greetings of the Brazilian people to the Cuban people. Thank you.

[Castro] Thank you. However I wish to add something to your words. I wish to reiterate my feelings that the relations are advancing perfectly based on sincerity, trust, and mutual respect as agreed upon.

[Sarney] Yes, yes. Our relations in this field are very good because they further strengthen the friendship among our peoples.

[Castro] That is true. I recently had the opportunity to greet several artists, intellectuals, among them our dear friend Jorge Amado. I also talked with many businessmen who have visited us. I can assure you that the relations are advancing very well and there are excellent possibilities for development and increasing cultural, scientific, and economic exchange. As far as I can see the outlook is perfect. I was also happy to hear you say you are pleased with the idea that the Brazilian Embassy in our country be located in one of the most beautiful buildings in our capital city. However, this does not mean that it will be very expensive. I suggested to your ambassador, Italo Zappa, that he choose the necessary land and choose from among the best architects -- we suggested Niemeyer, who is a well known architect -- to draft the plans for the embassy.

[Sarney] Yes, he spoke to me of this. I appreciate this. He spoke to me of his visit to Cuba. He said he liked Cuba very much.

[Castro] I am glad, I am glad. Regarding the land, we will donate it and we will help build the embassy so that it will be cheaper to build. In these times of economic difficulties you cannot be spending too much. I understand this. You cannot be spending too much on buildings abroad. However, we will do our best so the cost will be very small. What we want is that the building and the Brazilian Embassy in Cuba to be commensurate with Brazil's prestige, Brazil's greatness, and with the level of the relations that we aspire to achieve. At your embassy in Havana we want you to have an extension of Brasilia. Symbolically, it would be very good if Niemeyer were to undertake this project. I am very happy to hear that you are pleased with the idea.

[Sarney] Thank you, Mr President. It's a pleasure to have talked to you.

[Castro] Thank you. Greetings to you and the people of Brazil from the people of Cuba and from me, a friendly greeting.

[Sarney] Thank you. I appreciate this.

[Castro] Thank you.

Castro Views Conversation

FL240239 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Video report by Mauolo Ortega on interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Brazilian journalists, on 23 January; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] This morning, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, spoke to Brazilian journalists on the dialogue he had with Brazilian President Jose Sarney.

[Castro] What happened to me happened to all the Cuban people. It can be said that all the Cuban people participated in the conversation.

It is, as I explained, as the Brazilian president said, a symbolic act, but in addition, it has historical significance from a political point of view as well as a technical point of view.

There are not many similarities between Brazil and Cuba or between the people of Brazil and Cuba. All who come here tell me that Cubans and Brazilians are not similar...

[Unidentified journalist, interrupting] They are very [word indistinct].

[Castro] Because the two... [changes thought] we are Caribbean but a large part of Brazil has a climage similar to ours. The population that [corrects himself] the Cuban population, the predecessors of our population are also... [changes thought] they are similar.

[Unidentified journalist] That is true. That is true. [repeats himself]

[Castro] We have a European origin, a peninsular origin. We cannot say Spanish or Portuguese. We say we are of a peninsular origin, an African origin, and of Indian origin.

[Unidentified journalist] Ethnically, they are very similar.

[Castro] Because of this, there are many similarities between our culture and that of Brazil. There are many similarities in customs, in pleasures, the spirit of happiness, spontaneity, a happy and alive spirit.

[Ortega] Later, our commander in chief, in his meeting with the Brazilian press, referred to Latin American integration.

[Castro] Integration is an indispensable requirement for the complete independence and development of our countries including a country such as Brazil, which has a good level of development. The process of Latin American integration multiplies its possibilities and the smaller countries need much more. What are the possibilities for a small country of 10,000, 5,000, or 4,000 residents?

Talk Broadcast to Brazilians

FL231405 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] More than 80 million Brazilians watched and listened to President Jose Sarney and Cuban head of state Fidel Castro today when they had a telephone conversation inaugurating the direct communications system via satellite between the two countries. The conversation was broadcast to all of Brazil by the five major television stations and a national radio network. A television screeen was set up in Sarney's office on which the Brazilian president could watch Commander Fidel Castro while he was speaking to him from his own office at Havana's Revolution Palace.

PANAMANIAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION DEPARTS

FL270209 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Video shows Panamanian delegation seated at Havana's airport terminal gate getting ready to board aircraft; announcer voice-over]

[Text] After a 4-day stay in our country, a delegation of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, headed by its President Mr Ovidio Diaz, returned to Panama. The delegation was seen off at Havana's Jose Marti Airport by Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the Peoples' Government, member of the Council of State and member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee.

[Begin Diaz recording] We believe that the Cuban and Panamanian problems are similar in many ways. Cuba has struggled for its independence and sovereignty. We have a different view and, from now on, we will talk about what we saw in Cuba and how happy we were feeling as though we were in Panama. [end recording]

The objective of the visit to our country was to exchange experiences, learn some of the advances made by our revolutionary process, and strengthen friendship ties within the framework of the existing relations between the two legislative assemblies.

REPORTAGE ON CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION VISIT

Official Talks Begin 23 Jan

FL231909 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Video shows Cuban and Czechoslovak delegations sitting around a table and the Czechoslovak delegation placing a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument at Havana's Revolutionary Square]

[Text] Official talks began today between the first secretaries of the parties of Havana and Prague, capital of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Mr Antonin Kapek, who is also member of the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCA], was received at the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Provincial Committee Headquarters by his counterpart Jorge Lezcano, PCC Central Committee member. The distinguished visitor is accompanied by Frantisek Stafa, mayor of the city of Prague, and other leaders. Subjects of mutual interest for the two capital cities were discussed.

Prior to the meeting, the Prague delegation placed a floral wreath at the foot of the monument of our national hero Jose Marti at Revolutionary Square.

Risquet Meets Kapek, Officials

FL270049 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Jan 87

[Video shows PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet and Central Committee member Jorge Lezcano seated at a table with a group of men]

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdez, member of the politburo and Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, has met with a Czechoslovak delegation headed by Comrade Antonin Kapek, member of the CPCZ Presidium and its first secretary in Prague. During the talks, the excellent relations between our peoples, parties, and governments and the efforts made by both sides by the ever growing development of bilateral cooperation were confirmed.

Chavez Signs Agreement

FL241545 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 87

[Text] A working agreement on scientific and technical cooperation during the 1987-88 period has been signed in Havana between the Executive Committee of the Havana Provincial Assembly of the People's Government and the National Committee of the CSSR capital, Prague.

The document was signed by Pedro Chavez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of Havana Provincial Assembly of the Peoples' Government, and Frantisek Stafa, CPCZ member and mayor of Prague.

BULGARIAN PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ARRIVES

FL261512 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Ivan Iliev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BPC] Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the State Planning Committee of the Bulgarian People's Republic, has arrived in Havana at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee.

Jose Lopez Moreno, member of the PCC Central Committee, and minister president of the Central Planning Board, met the Bulgarian leader at the airport.

During his stay in Cuba, Iliev will hold talks with leaders of the Cuban party and government and visit centers of recreational, economic, and scientific interest.

GDR NUCLEAR SAFETY SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR TALKS

FL261511 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 87

[Text] Dr Georg Sitzlack, state secretary for the GDR state Office for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection, is presiding over his country's delegation, which is in Cuba at the invitation of Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, director of the Cuban Commission on Nuclear Energy, who met him at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Dr Sitzlack and his companions will visit centers of scientific-technical interest and will jointly analyze with Cuba aspects related to bilateral cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

CASTRO VISITS SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

FL270041 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Jan 87

[Text] This afternoon, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited the residence of Spanish Ambassador to Cuba Mr Antonio Serrano de Haro. Here he was received by the Spanish delegation that worked jointly with the Cuban delegation in the third meeting of the Spanish-Cuban Science and Technology Mixed Commission.

Commander Fidel Castro had a lively conversation with Luis Yanez-Barnuevo, secretary of state for international cooperation for Latin America, and with other members of the Spanish delegation. After a 1-hour cordial chat with the head of the Spanish delegation during which he expressed his satisfaction over the agreement reached, Castro took leave with the leaders of the visiting delegation.

U.S. RADIO STATION IN PUERTO RICO 'AGGRESSIVE'

PA201601 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The radio war is one of the many facets of the imperialist ideological aggression, not only against socialist nations, but against all countries that decide to seek independence from U.S. protection. Consequently, Washington is making every effort to increase the strength of its subversive radio stations, and to make its destabilization efforts more effective through slanted and poisonous propaganda.

The so-called Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe rise up against the socialist community, and in our area Voice of America programs fulfill similar objectives. Through the expansion of Voice of America broadcasts to Central America and the Caribbean, an effort is being made to remedy the Central American crisis and counteract the disgrace the United States has suffered through its support for the aggression against Nicaragua.

Puerto Rico, an island subject since the past century to U.S. tyranny, is the geographical point chosen by Washington to install a powerful short- and medium-wave system that will cost $50 million and will begin operating in 1990 with a staff of 80 professionals: agents of subversion. The installation -- the military use of which is not ruled out if necessary -- complements the U.S. bases established in Puerto Rican territory, where nuclear bombs are stockpiled and Orion-C3 airplanes are based. The airplanes are capable of transporting and dropping the bombs on the chosen objectives.

It is no secret to anyone that this radio station complex has the job of destabilizing the area, but in addition to its aggressive nature, it is a serious problem for Puerto Rico. First, Washington's unilateral decision to create such a network within Puerto Rican territory implies a total lack of knowledge about the island's purported independence, and reaffirms its status as a colony. In addition, the project seriously affects valuable archaeological sites, as well as lands with tourist, farming, cattle-breeding, and trade potential. The installations occupy more than 700 hectares [as heard] in Cabo Rojo municipality in the southeastern part of Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, the occupation of these lands is part of the U.S. plan to take possession of extensive areas near the project under the pretext of creating nature preserves. Most of all, however, many people fear that the new installations, by virtue of their ample military potential, may create new reasons for Puerto Rico to remain a target if the United States unleashes an international conflict.

U.S. ENGINEERS REPORTEDLY ARRIVE IN COSTA RICA

PA240204 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Jan 87

[Text] A second contingent of 150 U.S. military engineers arrived in Costa Rica today to initiate the construction of seven bridges and several roads in the southern part of the country. However, several newspapers have reported they could be used in case of an invasion of Nicaragua.

The group, which arrived in two Hercules-type airplanes, joins 100 U.S. troops who have been in Costa Rica since last December carrying out similar activities. The presence of these troops has been reported on various occasions because it was not approved by the Costa Rican congress, an inviolable step according to the Costa Rican Constitution.

REPORT ACCUSES U.S., CONTRAS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

PA230342 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jan 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The episode where the Nicaraguan mercenaries were given funds obtained from the illegal sale of weapons to Iran seems to be growing more complicated and is proving to be more harmful for Ronald Reagan following recent disclosures indicating that drug trafficking was used as the means to collect money for this purpose -- with Washington's approval. The possibility was mentioned some time ago but the matter was not followed through when the White House tried to rise as champion in the struggle against drugs, an element that represents the main worry for over 85 percent of the U.S. people.

Nevertheless, following the scandal known as Irangate, all the mud that Washington has accumulated in its useless efforts to destroy the Sandinist revolution is again being stirred up. Colombian immigrant Juan Morales and U.S. pilot Gary Bethner, who are now in a Miami jail for drug trafficking, issued some declarations confirming that the Nicaraguan contras purchased weapons with money they received by selling cocaine in the United States. This action received the support of the CIA and the so-called Drug Enforcement Agency.

It may be recalled that the U.S. Congress banned all official aid to the former Somozist guards in 1984, but rescinded the measure in November when it authorized the delivery of $100 million to those whom Reagan calls champions of freedom. Everything seems to indicate that the huge amounts of funds secretly given by the CIA and private U.S. groups to the contras between 1984 and 1986 were increased by sizeable sums resulting from the sales of cocaine in U.S. territory. This included using airplanes, such as the one shot down in October by the EPS; one of its crew members was sent to prison for some time in Nicaragua until he was generously pardoned.

Investigations carried out by Democrat Senator John Kerry indicate that a CIA front, Southern Air Transport, actively participated not only in the missions to send supplies to the mercenaries but also in the transfer of drugs from Colombia to Florida, where there are no obstacles to carry out such a dirty business. Furthermore, Oliver North, a member of the National Security Council who was dismissed from the job for his involvement in the Irangate case, ordered the FBI to cut short and investigation concerning the activities that were using these aircraft. The evidence cannot be more clear.

The political storm has again grown to serious proportions around Reagan and his team, and very few doubt that the credibility of the President -- an alleged fighter against drug trafficking -- may suffer a new and more critical deterioration. Nevertheless, those who are not deceived by the White House's siren songs know these shady activities at the highest level within the U.S. Government are part of the ill-bred actions that characterize imperialist activity -- which was worsened by the presence of the U.S. society's most backward members in the White House.

Colombian Media Cited

PA230341 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jan 87

[Text] Colombian television and printed media have widely reported about charges of ties between the local cocaine traffickers and the activities of the Nicaraguan contras. The "Today TV" newscast and EL ESPECTADOR newspaper disclosed reports which stated that the airplanes that were used to deliver to the Somozist bands the profits of the illegal sale of U.S. weapons to Iran were later loaded with cocaine of the Colombian drug traffickers belonging to the so-called Medellin cartel.